THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Konar Irrigation Project is under construction since, 1979.

(c) The estimated cost of the project was Rs. 187.67 crores in 1988 against an initial estimated cost of Rs. 11.43 crores in 1971.

(d) and (e) An amount of Rs. 77.90 crores has been spent upto March, 1994 without creating any irrigation potential so far. The completion of the project will depend upon the priority attached to it by the State Government.

Reduction in Width of NHs

3420. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the width of National Highways from 30 mts. to 25 mts.; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Malaria Cases in Bihar

3421. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a)whether the entire Bihar was in the grip of Malaria and almost 10,000 people died due to this disease;

(b) if so, whether malaria, kala-azar, jaundice and diarrhoea took the shape of an epidemic last year in this State which claimed 20,000 lives;

(c) whether the Bihar Government had made sufficient arrangements to deal with these diseases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the entire Central fund was returned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) According to the figures available with the National Malaria Eradication Programme (NHEP) Authorities, there were 86 deaths due to Malaria and 666 deaths due to Kala-azar in Bihar during 1996. In respect of jaundice and diarrhoea also there has been no report of epidemic.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has advised the Bihar Government to strengthen the surveillance machinery, adhere to the prescribed spray schedule and fill up the vacant posts. The State Government had reported during 1996 of having undertaken spray operations and provided Chemotherapeutic treatment for treatment of malaria and kala-azar.

(e) No, Sir. Central assistance under National Eradication Programme and Kala-azar Control Programme is normally given in kind (Insecticides, Larvicides and Drugs). However, the allocation of DDT could not be fully utilised by he State Government during the last 2 years.

[English]

Bhimtangi Irrigation Project (Orissa)

3422. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3302 on December 16, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the Bhimtangi Irrigation Project in Orissa has been neglected;

(b) whether areas covered by this Irrigation Project have been affected as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for well revival of the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) There is no major, medium or minor irrigation project in Orissa named Bhimtangi Irrigation Project.

[Translation]

Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Maharashtra

3423. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that inferior quality/stale food is provided to the children under the mid day meal programme in the schools of Maharashtra as a result of which children suffer from vomitting and dysentary;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents occurred so far during this year; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Under the National Programme of Nutritional support to Primary Education, commonly known as Mid-day Meal Scheme, Government of Maharashtra is distributing foodgrains (rice) to eligible children in Classes I to V. The beneficiaries are not given cooked or processed food. Hence the question of distribution of inferior quality or stale food to children under this scheme does not arise.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.